



# Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter

Summer 2010

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

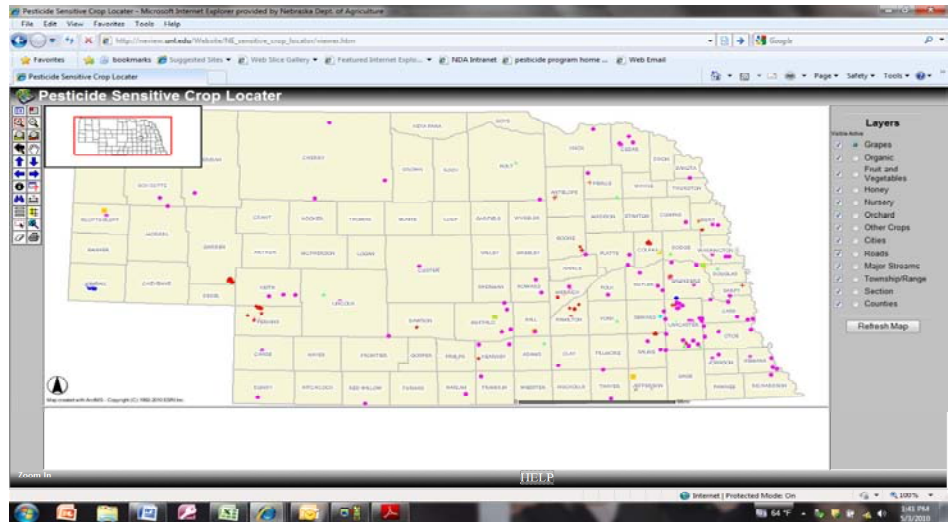
Vol. 27

## Pesticide Sensitive Crop Locator

In the first six months of operation, Nebraska's Pesticide Sensitive Crop Locator has doubled in the number of records available in the database. A program with roots to a vineyard-flag project started by the Nebraska Aviation Trades Association and Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association, the on-line Locator began with approximately 100 vineyard locations. As of the end of May, approximately 240 locations are available through the database and map search, and includes other sensitive crops such as fruits and vegetables, orchards, nurseries, and organic crops.

Commercial applicators, especially with Right of Way (07), Ag Plant (01), Ornamental and Turf (04), or Aerial (12) categories, as well as private applicators, are encouraged to frequently consult the Locator information for sensitive crops near their application area, and take proper precautions to avoid drift. Applicators are able to search sensitive crop locations by county or legal description to get a printable list. In addition, users can visually see these locations in relation to roads and other features by using an interactive Internet map.

The Locator can be accessed from NDA's home page at [www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov) – look under “Plant Industry” in the middle of the page or search for “locator” using the search box in the upper right-hand corner.



### Sensitive Crop Database Summary

Crop Type	# Locations
Fruit or Vegetables	16
Grapes	109
Honey	10
Nursery (ornamental plants, plants for seed, flowers/cut flowers, etc.)	7
Orchard (trees for fruit/nuts)	3
Organic	74
Other	23
<b>Total Records (property locations)</b>	<b>242</b>


<b>Individual landowners</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Counties represented</b>	<b>58 of 93</b>

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Nebraska

**Pesticide Sensitive Crop Locator**



[www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov)  
(search for 'locator')

Commercial Growers — Register your crop locations  
Pesticide Applicators — Locate sensitive crops in your area

# Pesticide Container Recycling Program Enters 19th Year!

Forty Nebraska locations are accepting empty, plastic pesticide containers for recycling in the 19th year of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension statewide program. The UNL program helps recycle 1- and 2.5-gallon plastic pesticide containers and 15-, 30-, and 55-gallon plastic crop protection chemical drums, said UNL pesticide safety educator Clyde Ogg, who coordinates the program for NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

A full list of recycling sites, guidelines, and program information and details are on UNL's Pesticide Education Resources web site at <http://pested.unl.edu/recycling>.

Plastic from collected containers is turned into industrial and consumer products such as shipping pallets,

drain tile, dimension lumber, and parking lot tire bumpers. Last year, the UNL program helped recycle about 25 tons of containers, contributing to an 18-year total of about 950 tons of containers, Ogg said.

"Knowledge of the program, plus teamwork and cooperation have always formed a base for this very successful program," Ogg said, citing cooperation from UNL Extension Educators and collection site managers statewide.

"Most of the (collection) sites are at agricultural chemical dealerships or community recycling centers, which volunteer to take on this additional responsibility," he said, adding "Every pesticide container collected through this program is one less that might otherwise be improperly disposed."

The program accepts pressure-rinsed or triple-rinsed 1- and 2.5-gallon plastic pesticide containers. They must be clean and drained, inside and out. Caps, labels, and slipcover plastic labels must be removed because they cannot be

recycled as part of the program. They should be disposed of as solid waste.

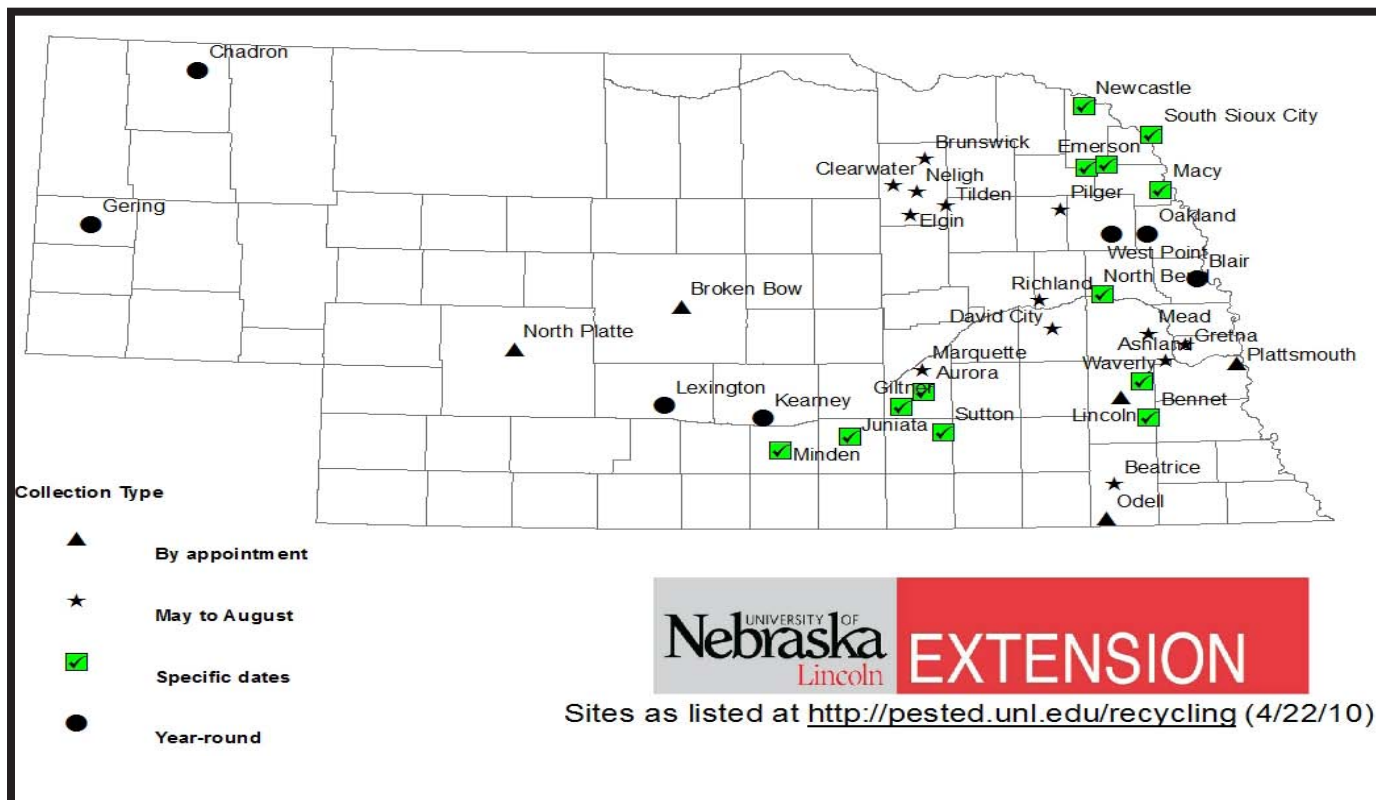
Twenty-four of the collection sites will accept 15-, 30-, and 55-gallon plastic crop protection chemical, crop oil, and adjuvant drums. These drums must be thoroughly rinsed before delivery and should not be cut or opened in any way. Seven of the sites are collecting year-round, 14 collect May through August, 13 collect on specific dates and 6 are by appointment only.

Mini-bulk, saddle tanks, and nurse tanks, which can be made of fiberglass or plastics not compatible with the recycling program, are not accepted.

Before delivery to collection sites, containers and drums should be cleaned, rinsed, and drained. Rinsate should be returned to the spray tank. Remove and properly dispose of booklets and caps from containers; and remove and properly dispose of plastic shrink wraps. Glued-on paper labels can be left on the container.

This program is funded by a national coalition of agri-chemical manufacturers through the Agricultural Container Recycling Council, Washington, DC. (See [www.acrecycle.org](http://www.acrecycle.org) for more information.)

## 2010 Pesticide Container Collection Sites



## Voluntary Cancellation of All Methyl Parathion Registrations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received requests from registrants to voluntarily cancel all products containing methyl parathion, a restricted-use organophosphate insecticide and acaricide used primarily on cotton, corn, and rice, as well as on other agricultural crops. These requests would terminate the last methyl parathion products registered for use in the U.S., effective December 31, 2012. End-use products will not be sold after August 31, 2013, and end-use products cannot legally be used after December 31, 2013. All end use product labels will be amended to reflect the last legal use date.

The Registration Review docket for methyl parathion opened in June 2009 and a Final Work Plan was signed in October 2009. EPA's registration review decision will be based on the cancellation of all registered products. Any party wishing to pick up the registrations will be responsible for submitting all required data. Methyl parathion is named in the Washington Toxics Coalition v. EPA Endangered Species Act lawsuit, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is scheduled to issue a Biological Opinion on methyl parathion and other pesticides later this year. Methyl parathion is also included in the group of 58 pesticide active ingredients on the initial list to be screened under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program.

In addition to cotton, corn (field, pop, and sweet), and rice, methyl parathion is currently registered for use on alfalfa, almonds, barley, canola/rapeseed, grass (forage), oats, onions, potatoes (sweet and white), rye, soybeans, sunflowers, walnuts, and wheat. The three registrants are: Cheminova A/S, Cheminova, Inc, and United Phosphorus, Inc.

In an April 28, 2010, *Federal Register* notice, EPA invited comment on the voluntary cancellation requests until May 28, 2010. Additional information on methyl parathion and the voluntary cancellation requests is available in registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0332 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Other recent cancellation notices can also be found at this web site, each having existing stock provisions with specific "will not be sold after" dates: methidathion (search for EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0723) and monosodium methanearsonate or MSMA (search for EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0191).

## Proceedings of 2010 Crop Production Clinics On-line

Audio/visual and text proceedings of many of the topics presented at the 2010 Crop Productions Clinics are now available on-line at <http://cpc.unl.edu/2010mm.cfm>. Major categories of topics include weed science, entomology, plant pathology, pesticide safety, soil fertility, irrigation, and crop production. Specific presentation titles include the following:

- Marestalk and Other Difficult to Control Weeds
- Reducing Off-Site Movement of Pesticides
- What's New in Weed Science
- Protecting Bees from Pesticides
- What's New in Entomology
- Specialty Crops Disease
- What's New in Plant Pathology
- Using Precision Agriculture Technologies Profitably
- Nebraska Ag Water Management Demonstration

There are many more presentations, including those with specific crop and geographical information.

## Changes to Title 198, Secondary Containment for Pesticides and Fertilizers

Due to recent changes in Federal regulations, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is required to make a few changes to Title 198, which regulates containment facilities and loadout pads for pesticides and fertilizers. The changes are not anticipated to cause existing facilities to make modifications to structures, but may require some change to how facilities are inspected and how those inspections are recorded. There are also some new requirements for new facilities that will be built in the future.

- A new section will be added to Title 198 that will require facilities storing dry pesticides in single containers of more than 4,000 pounds to be held in containment.
- Asphalt will be removed as an acceptable "impermeable substance" for use in containment and loadout facilities.
- Build new loadout pads such that they prevent on-flow of water from outside of the pad during rainfall events.

The proposed changes will be presented to the Environmental Quality Council at its July meeting. For questions, contact Tom Trewhitt in the Agriculture Section of NDEQ at (402) 471-4255.

### Title 198: Related Information

See EPA's brochure, "A Snapshot of the EPA Pesticide Container and Containment Rule for Registrants, Retailers, Distributors, Commercial Applicators, Custom Blenders, and Pesticide Users" at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/ccrule-brochure.pdf>.

See NDEQ's brochure "Quick Info for Complying with Nebraska's Secondary Containment Regulations" at [http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/ndeq\\_title198.pdf](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/ndeq_title198.pdf) or type "secondary containment" into the search box at [www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov).



## Pesticides in Our Water (and how to keep it from happening)

Reducing off-site movement of pesticides is a recurring theme from NDA and UNL Extension personnel. The reason for this is because of the potential for negative impacts to human and environmental health. It is incumbent upon all applicators who apply pesticides outdoors – private landowners and commercial/noncommercial applicators - to be aware of the factors that lead to pesticide movement through leaching and surface runoff. While the

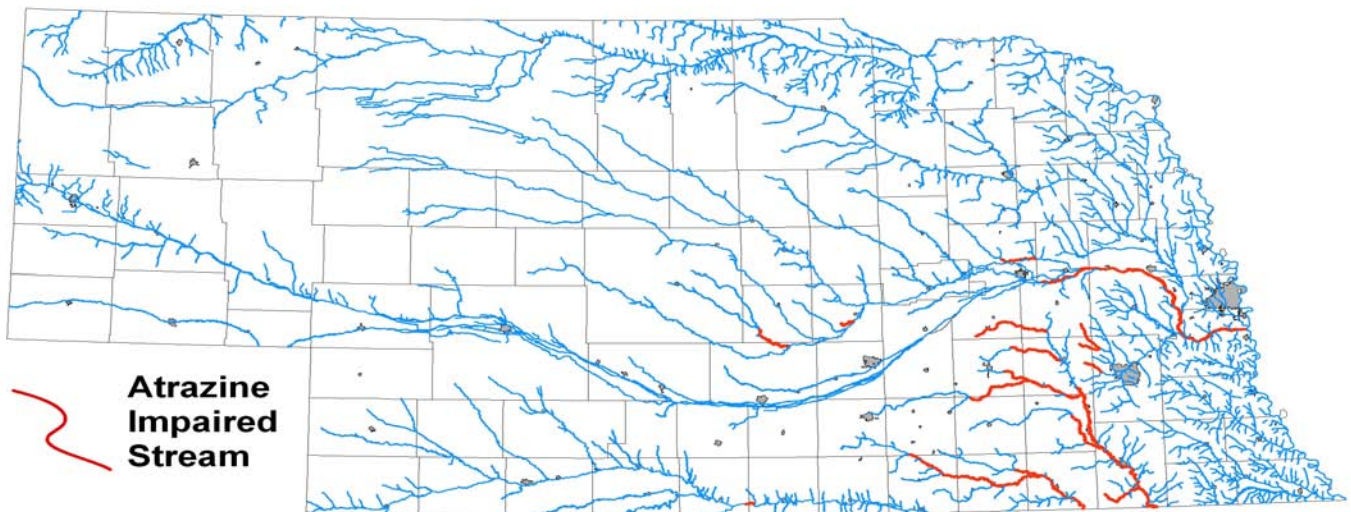
herbicide atrazine certainly receives the bulk of attention nationally and in Nebraska, for obvious reasons, all pesticides have potential to move offsite given the right circumstances (a combination of climate, soil texture, depth to ground water, slope, and pesticide properties such as persistence, solubility, and ability to adsorb to soil).

A very good overview of this information was presented at the 2010 Crop Production Clinics, and the audio/visual presentation (17 minutes long) is available on-line at <http://cpc.unl.edu/2010mm.cfm>. The information highlights atrazine use in agricultural settings, but it also provides good background information on drinking water and aquatic life standards,

the monitoring that is being done to evaluate our water quality, and how this information is being used to reduce impacts to our water resources. Much of this information is pertinent to applicators in other outdoor settings, such as rights of way and urban landscapes.

NDA is currently working with local Extension, NRCS, and NRD personnel, as well as NDEQ, NRCS, and UNL water quality specialists to determine the best solutions to these reoccurring problems. However, if pesticide concentrations continue to be found in concentrations above water quality standards, NDA will be required to consider additional restrictions that would further reduce use rates or possibly limit where these products can be used.

### Atrazine Impaired Waters- 2010



Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality ([www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us))

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## Endangered Species Information at Your Fingertips

NDA encourages all applicators, especially, private landowners and commercial/noncommercial applicators who apply pesticides outdoors, to consult threatened and endangered species information to reduce potential impacts from pesticides. Pesticides can have direct impacts on plant and animal species, or can impact their habitat (food or cover, for example).

The Nebraska Natural Heritage Program, within the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Nebraska have made state and Federal threatened and endangered species information easy to access on the web. NRCS provides information to its field staff through the Field Office Technical Guide, and the table of contents for the Endangered and Threatened Species section ([http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Subsection\\_II\\_TOC\\_ENDANGERED\\_AND\\_THREATENED\\_SPECIES\\_LISTS.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Subsection_II_TOC_ENDANGERED_AND_THREATENED_SPECIES_LISTS.pdf)) contains links to state range maps for each species, individual species/habitat descriptions, and county-species lists. (People receiving the paper copy of this newsletter can easily find this link by going to [www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov) and typing "endangered species" into the search box found in the upper right-hand corner of the page).

To determine if any species may potentially be found in your area, consult the county-species list for your county. For a given county-species combination, the range of the given species covers some portion of the county (from all to very little). A quick check back to the individual species map will let you know if it may be found near your application site.

Note that a species might be expected to occur anywhere within a mapped range in which there is suitable habitat. The maps show current, known ranges rather than historical ranges (that is, areas where a given species formerly occurred but in which it no longer occurs are not included in these maps). Some species, particularly highly mobile species, such as birds, may occur

outside of their range in locations in which the species is generally described as 'accidental' or 'vagrant.' These maps do not include such locations.

For applicators who do not have access to the Internet, please contact NDA if you would like more information on potential endangered and threatened species in your area.

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## Noxious Weed Infested Acres Continue to Decrease in Most Cases

*Mitch Coffin, NDA*

Noxious weeds continue to be a serious threat to agriculture across the state. The most noticeable infestations occur on range and pasturelands. Weeds like purple loosestrife, phragmites, and saltcedar tend to impact wetland areas that may not directly affect agriculture. However, these plants do affect surface water, wildlife, and recreation in these infested areas.

In 1990, Nebraska had only four designated state noxious weeds. These four plant species infested 4,453,713 acres in 1990. Those weeds were musk thistle, plumeless thistle, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge. Since 1990, an additional five weeds (spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, purple loosestrife, phragmites and saltcedar) have been declared noxious in the state. The 2009 infestation data shows that 1,486,850 acres are infested with noxious weeds across the state. This data includes the nine state-designated noxious weeds. Infested acres data is collected from each county weed control authority.

This data indicates that 2.9 million acres have been improved and are more productive than in 1990. In the case of range and pastureland, this means more grass, which in turn means more pounds of beef. Some noxious weeds are found in cropland and hay ground. These areas are now more productive because of less noxious weed competition while also improving the quality of the crop.

Much of the success of the noxious weed program can be credited to an aggressive public

awareness campaign conducted by each county weed control authority. Most landowners and managers are concerned about noxious weeds and strive to improve their property. However, public awareness is needed to ensure continued success.

The real winners are those who have taken the right approach to improve their land by controlling not only noxious weeds, but general weeds that compete with grass and crops. Immediate results may not be noticed for a year or two; however, long-term results will outweigh the cost of controlling noxious weeds.

Uncontrolled noxious weed infestations should be reported to the local county weed control authority.

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## Useful Web Links:

Nebraska Invasive Species Project (<http://www.snr.unl.edu/invasives/>) dedicated to providing information about research and management efforts going on throughout Nebraska. E-newsletter subscription is available.

Invasive Weed Impact Calculator <http://199.133.173.229/WeedImpact/> - Estimate spotted knapweed and leafy spurge impacts on grassland biomass production and wildlife and livestock forage, and identify appropriate weed management options for a specific situation.

Western Society of Weed Science (<http://www.wsweedscience.org/default.asp>) includes links to upcoming conferences and past presentations, including Biological Control of Invasive Plants, and a Jointed Goatgrass Symposium.

The Glyphosate, Weeds, and Crops web site (<http://www.glyphosateweedsandcrops.org/>) Contains the latest information and research from member universities.

International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds (<http://www.weedscience.org/in.asp>) Global collaboration makes the survey and this web site possible. It contains a useful search feature allowing you to search by mode of action, state, weed species, county.

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (<http://www.epa.gov/pesp/>) - a voluntary program that forms partnerships with pesticide users to reduce the potential health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use.

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